

[20 April, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

**Conservation of Top Soil**

3836. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps are being contemplated to create national awareness about conservation of top soil; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) (a) Yes Sir.

(b) In all programmes of the Central Government relating to natural resource management there is a provision for capacity building and training of both implementing officials as well as beneficiaries. Under these training programmes awareness generation for sustainable agricultural practices is a major component. In addition, every year for one week, in a very focused manner national awareness is generated for conservation of soil. The National Land Resources Conservation Week is celebrated between November 14—20 each year by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture involving State Land Use Boards of State Governments. During this period, various activities are organised to create awareness such as (i) publicity through advertisements in News Papers, radio and television, (ii) distribution of wall and pocket calendars, stickers, scales and other publicity materials, (in) participation in exhibitions and Trade Fair, (iv) use of folk theatre, folk dances, puppet shows; seminars, workshops and the like (v) organising debates of School Children, 'RUN' on Rajpath of School Children etc.